



## Indiana's Rankings and Ratings

From national news organizations to private credit rating agencies, Indiana is gaining national acclaim for its ever-improving business climate.

A national survey of real estate executives and a review of Indiana's record-breaking success in economic development scored the Hoosier state a top five finish nationally in *Site Selection* magazine's 2008 business climate survey. Indiana was the **top place finisher in the Midwest and was the most improved state in the nation**, moving up six places in the annual survey from 11<sup>th</sup> place in 2007 to fifth place in 2008.

National news broadcaster CNBC listed the Hoosier state as the **"Most Improved State for Business"** in its 2008 survey of states. Indiana ranked first in the Midwest and third in the nation for business friendliness in the survey, the best in history for the state and far better than the rest of the industrial Midwest.

*Forbes* magazine also provided Indiana acclaim by rating the state's business tax climate as the best in the Midwest and ranking its **cost of doing business sixth lowest nationally** in 2008.

Indiana's low cost of doing business and tax-friendly environment scored accolades from a *Chief Executive* magazine survey of the nation's top CEOs. The magazine's fourth annual "Best & Worst States" survey polled 605 top executives in early 2008 who listed Indiana as the **best place in the Midwest for business**, scoring an eighth place national finish and edging out neighboring states by more than 15 places on the survey.

Media giants aren't the only source citing Indiana's improving economy. Independent credit rating agency **Standard & Poor's raised the state's credit rating to AAA** in July 2008, citing Indiana's strengthening economy, sound management and balanced budget in its awarding the state the highest credit rating. Indiana is one of only nine states nationwide with the agency's best rating, and the upgrade marks the first time in history Indiana has earned the AAA status.

For the second year in a row, global business advisory firm Ernst & Young ranked Indiana **first in the nation on a per capita basis** for announced jobs created by company investments in its U.S. Investment Monitor. The firm also noted Indiana attracted three of the nation's top megaprojects in 2007 in terms of job creation.

The state's ever-improving business climate is also garnering attention from national taxpayer groups. The Tax Foundation, a nonpartisan tax research group based in Washington, D.C., ranked Indiana **first in the Midwest in its 2008 Business Tax Climate Index**. The top-level ranking marks the fifth consecutive year that Indiana has led the Midwest in this ranking.

The state's competitive environment is attracting investment from across the country and around the world. A 2008 study by IBM Global Business Services found that Indiana **leads the nation in attracting new jobs through foreign investment** for the second consecutive year.



A study by the Indiana Business Research Center at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business found Indiana exports totaled \$25.9 billion in 2007, topping the previous record set in 2006 by more than 14 percent and placing Indiana in the **top 12 exporting states in the nation**.

International marketing and site selection firm Development Counsellors International ranked Indiana **10<sup>th</sup> in its annual survey of the nation's best states for doing business**. The poll of 281 U.S. corporate executives found respondents favored the state's strong labor market, low operating costs and pro-business climate. The 2008 survey marked the first time Indiana had placed in the top 10.

As one of the only states in the nation with a budget surplus, an overhauled property tax system that significantly cuts and permanently caps property taxes for homeowners and businesses, and a 10-year, \$12 billion infrastructure investment plan that doesn't hike gas or diesel taxes, Indiana is a destination of choice for business.

Lower costs. Perfect location. Indiana.